



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

from east to west, flows through a wide band of diluvium, which is bordered on each side by other formations. These are, to the east, miocene and eocene; west of this, granite and gneiss. To the south there are extensive areas of silurian and cretaceous. The map is a handsome piece of engraving, but is on a small scale.

#### GEOGRAPHY AND TRAVELS.<sup>1</sup>

THE EAST CENTRAL AFRICAN EXPEDITION OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.—At the meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, held November 8, 1880, Mr. Joseph Thomson, the leader of this expedition, read an account of his explorations including many previous details not previously known.

The lofty plateau extending round the northern and eastern sides of Lake Nyassa and reaching half way to Tanganyika rises from 6000 to 9000 feet, and is so cut up by denudation as to appear like a series of mountains. "It consists to the north and west of metamorphic clay slates, with here and there felspathic rocks intruding, while immediately round Nyassa the rocks are purely volcanic porphyrites and tuffs. The difference in the external surface of this plateau has determined to a very marked extent the surface outlines produced by denudation. Thus the mountains of clay slate are distinguished by rounded grassy forms, generally smooth and uncut, uniform in shape and color, and by no means picturesque. Pass from these to the volcanic rocks, and we observe at once a marked change. We have sharp jagged peaks, precipitous rocky sides, notched and cut in the most irregular and striking fashion, as becomes mountains formed of such diverse materials as compact lava beds and loose tuffs and agglomerates. Add to these features huge yawning gorges and great precipices where vegetation in vain attempts to grow, and some notion of this plateau may be formed."

On this high tract of land were found most miserable and degraded types of the Negro race. "These people have dark, sooty skins, prognathous jaws and thick lips, with small heads and shrunk-up withered bodies which speak of an existence of the most miserable character. They go, as a rule, perfectly naked, and live in conical huts seven feet high and five or six feet in diameter, crawling in and out through a hole." "It was found almost impossible to communicate with them, as they seemed to be entirely devoid of any abstract ideas, and appeared to be completely shut off from all knowledge and communication with the outside world." "Mr. Thomson," remarks the *Academy*, "seems to have formed the idea that these tribes are in their present condition from having remained absolutely isolated; but others may incline to the opinion that it is a case of gradual degeneration."

The commercial importance of this portion of Central Africa is

<sup>1</sup> Edited by ELLIS H. YARNALL, Philadelphia.

not great. "Nowhere," says Thomson, "have I seen a single metal in a form which a white man would for a moment look at as a profitable or workable speculation. There is, no doubt, a considerable abundance of iron in many parts, but very little more than sufficient to supply the simple wants of the natives. Coal I saw none, and my researches would lead me to believe that such a thing does not exist over the wide area embraced by our route." "The chief characteristic of this part of the country was its utter barrenness and the absence of anything worth trading for."

The expedition marched for six days along the Lukuga, the outlet of Lake Tanganyika and which pursued its tumultuous course in a W. N. W. direction "through one of the most charming valleys I have ever seen in Africa; beautifully wooded hills rising on each side from 600 to 2000 feet above the level of the lake, while forest clumps and open glades diversified the scenery along the river's banks, where antelopes and buffaloes grazed in abundance." The refusal of his men to go further prevented Mr. Thomson's following the river to its junction with the Congo.

While there is much beauty and picturesqueness in the scenery along the shores of Tanganyika one is on the whole, disappointed in its monotony. There was the same unvarying tint of green, the same unbroken hill-ranges which would have been inexpressibly dreary but for the frequent appearance of a jutting cape or small island. The chief feature in the scenery was the immense boulders and blocks which everywhere lined the shore."

On the return to the coast, Lake Hikwa was visited. "We saw it from an altitude of about 8000 feet above the sea, its surface lying more than half that height beneath us, and the mountains rose in such perfect precipices all round, that it seemed as if we could throw a stone into it. One of its peculiarities is, that it has no visible outlet—a fact which admits of little doubt. From my own personal knowledge I can say that none exists either north, south or west, while Elton and Cotterill, in passing near its eastern side, found no stream flowing from that direction."

Of the one hundred and fifty men who started on this remarkable and most successful journey all but one reached the coast again, arriving in the best of health and condition after traversing no less than 2830 miles, of which 1300 were over entirely new ground.

AFRICAN EXPLORATION.—Dr. Emil Holub proposes to make a journey through Africa from the south to the north, starting from the borders of the British colonies and visiting first the Zambesi and the Marutse-Malunda country. Then crossing the watershed between the Zambesi and Congo he will explore the region around the sources of the latter river, after which he hopes to reach the utterly unexplored region north of the Congo and make his way through Darfur into Egypt. Dr. Holub anticipates ac-

completing this extraordinary journey in the space of three years, at the cost of rather more than \$25,000.—The French explorer, M. Savorgnan de Brazza, is again pursuing his explorations on the Ogowé, and at last accounts (July 14th) had started for the Congo after establishing a station at the junction of the Passa and Ogowé. His former companion, Dr. Ballay, is about to rejoin him, and the French section of the International Association sends out with him M. Mizon, who will establish a new station on the Ogowé. M. de Brazza had engaged 750 men for this latter expedition, who will ascend the Ogowé as far as the Alima, taking with them, in canoes, the sections of a steam launch.—Major von Mechow, who was sent out by the German Government eighteen months since to explore in Angola, left Malange on the 12th of June last, and arrived on the banks of Quango on the 19th of July, at a point below the great water falls, and considerably beyond the limits of Messrs. Ivens and Capello's explorations. Although the expedition was everywhere well received by the negroes, yet the hilly character, with its countless deeply-carved valleys, offered many obstacles to the transport of the goods and of the composite boat. For instance, the Cambo, a tributary of the Quango, which it joins between the two waterfalls, had to be crossed four times. The camp of the travelers, at the time of the despatch of the letter, was pitched below the falls, the more southern of which, called by the natives "Succambunda," now bears the name of the "Emperor William falls," while the northern one, called "Gombé," has been re-named the "Emperor Francis Joseph falls." The traveler intends to descend the Quango, which here is already very broad, in his boat as far as its junction with the Congo, and then to return. Everywhere the height above the sea-level was determined, and astronomical observations taken.—Two other Germans, Messrs. Pogge and Wissman, have also gone to Angola, in order to penetrate into the kingdom of the Muata Yanvo, whom Dr. Pogge visited in 1875.—Dr. Oscar Lenz, who was despatched by the same society in the latter part of 1879, has succeeded in reaching Timbuktu. He started from Tangier on December 22, 1879, in company of Hadj Ali, nephew of the celebrated Abd-el-Kader, and was disguised as a Turkish doctor of Constantinople. He met with a friendly reception at Timbuktu. He arrived at Medina, Senegal, on November 2, 1880. Of the three Europeans who have formerly visited Timbuktu, Major Lang (1826) was murdered; M. René Caillié two years later brought the first accounts of it to Europe, and Dr. Barth, in 1853-4, spent some months there.